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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/051,819	01/14/2002	Jeffrey M. Besterman	MET-002 (1002/003)	6029
32254	7590	07/01/2004	EXAMINER	
KEOWN & ASSOCIATES 500 WEST CUMMINGS PARK SUITE 1200 WOBURN, MA 01801			LACOURCIERE, KAREN A	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1635	

DATE MAILED: 07/01/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.	10/051,819	Applicant(s)	BESTERMAN ET AL.
Examiner	Karen A. Lacourriere	Art Unit	1635

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-50 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) 1-50 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____. |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____. | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 2-11, 17-23, 33-39 and 42-50, drawn to a method of inhibiting HDAC-4 activity in a cell using an antisense oligonucleotide targeted to HDAC-4, classified in class 514, subclass 44.
- II. Claims 12-14, 24, 25, and 40-50, drawn to a method of inhibiting HDAC-4 activity in a cell using a small molecule inhibitor of HDAC-4, classified in class 514, subclass 1.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions II and I are unrelated. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). In the instant case the different inventions are drawn to methods with different modes of operation. For example, the methods of Group I operate by binding of an oligonucleotide to HDAC-4 mRNA, causing a decrease in expression of HDAC-4, whereas the methods of Group II operate by having a small molecule bind to the HDAC-4 protein, decreasing the activity of the protein.

Claims 1, 15, 16 and 26-32 link(s) inventions I and II. The restriction requirement between the linked inventions is subject to the nonallowance of the linking claim(s), claim 1, 15, 16 and 26-32. Claims 42-50 are generic to Groups I and II and will only be examined to the extent that they read on the elected invention. Upon the allowance of the linking claim(s), the

restriction requirement as to the linked inventions shall be withdrawn and any claim(s) depending from or otherwise including all the limitations of the allowable linking claim(s) will be entitled to examination in the instant application. Applicant(s) are advised that if any such claim(s) depending from or including all the limitations of the allowable linking claim(s) is/are presented in a continuation or divisional application, the claims of the continuation or divisional application may be subject to provisional statutory and/or nonstatutory double patenting rejections over the claims of the instant application. Where a restriction requirement is withdrawn, the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 121 are no longer applicable. *In re Ziegler*, 44 F.2d 1211, 1215, 170 USPQ 129, 131-32 (CCPA 1971). See also MPEP § 804.01.

Single Sequence Restriction Applicable to both Groups

Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 121 and 37 C.F.R. 1.141, the methods drawn to using specific antisense sequences are subject to restriction. Upon election of Group I, Applicant must further elect one HDAC-4 antisense sequence (SEQ ID NO: 4 or 11) and one HDAC- 1 sequence (SEQ ID NO:2, 4 or 5). Upon election of Group II, Applicant must elect one HDAC-1 antisense sequence (SEQ ID NO:2, 4 or 5). The Commissioner has partially waived the requirements of 37 C.F.R. 1.141 and will permit a reasonable number of such nucleotide sequences to be claimed in a single application. Under this policy, up to 10 of independent and distinct nucleotide sequences will be examined in a single application. (see MPEP 803.04 and 2434), however, due to the high search burden upon the Office for nucleotide sequences, and due to the complex nature of the search and examination of antisense sequences, one sequence is deemed to be a reasonable search burden.

Claims 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 20-23, 36-39 and 45-50 specifically claims antisense SEQ ID NO: 4 and 11, each of which target HDAC-4 and claims 45-50 specifically recite SEQ ID NO: 2, 4 and 5, each of which target HDAC-1. Although the antisense sequences claimed each target and modulate expression of the same gene, the instant antisense sequences are considered to be unrelated, since each antisense sequence claimed is structurally and functionally independent and distinct for the following reasons: each antisense sequence has a unique nucleotide sequence, each antisense sequence targets a different and specific region of HDCA-4 or HDAC-1, and each antisense, upon binding to the target gene, functionally decreases the expression of the gene to a varying degree. Furthermore, a search of more than one (1) of the antisense sequences claimed presents an undue burden on the Patent and Trademark Office due to the complex nature of the search and corresponding examination of more than one (1) of the claimed antisense sequences. In view of the foregoing, one (1) antisense sequence is considered to be a reasonable number of sequences for examination. Accordingly, applicants are required to elect one (1) antisense sequence targeting HDAC-4 and one (1) antisense sequence targeting HDAC-1 upon election of Group I or one (1) antisense targeting HDAC-1 upon election of Group II.

This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention: The claims of Group II are drawn to patentably distinct species of small molecule inhibitors of HDAC-4. Applicant must elect one species of HDAC-4 small molecule inhibitor, selected from one of the formulas specified in, for example, claim 24 (one of species listed as (a)-(i), wherein Applicant must elect one specifically defined option of the variables

specified for each of formulas (a)-(i) or Applicant must elect one of the specific species as listed, for example, in claim 25, as provided by the structures listed as (a)-(l) in claim 25.

Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Currently, claims 12-14, 24, 25, and 40-50 are generic.

Applicant is advised that a reply to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with this requirement, and a listing of all claims readable thereon, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Karen A. Lacourciere whose telephone number is (571) 272-0759. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 7:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John L. LeGuyader can be reached on (571) 272-0760. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Karen A. Lacourciere
June 25, 2004

Karen Lacourciere
KAREN A. LACOURCIERE, PhD
PRIMARY EXAMINER